

To: Members of SCARF

From: Camille T. Wiggins

Re: Notes from Meeting on February 27, 2008

Date: March 20, 2008

Present: Dave Remondini, Loretta Oleksy, Leslie Rogers-Dunn, Jeff Berkovitz, Ann Jordan, Nancy Gettinger, Mike Murphy, and Camille Wiggins.

1. Jeff was our keynote speaker on the topic of House Bill 1001 that includes new provisions on juvenile law and juvenile procedures. Among other items, the bill discusses the payment of costs for juveniles in the state, the enhancement of federal monies in CHINS and delinquency cases, the requirement that court ordered placement qualify for IV-E or IV- B reimbursements, review of placements by DCS, expedited appeals, and limits on out of state placements. The group discussed what interested groups should be made aware of these changes, and several SCARF members will reach out to probation officers, CASA grantees, Public Defender Commission, Public Defender Council, meeting of women judges, and the Juvenile Bench book committee. ***Update: In furtherance of our mission to coordinate resources, Dave sent Jeff's HB 1001 summary to the Public Defender Council and the Family Law sections of the State and Indianapolis Bar associations and reported that his efforts were well received.***
2. Our mission statement is: ***To coordinate our resources for families and children for greater impact and to speak with a consistent voice.***
3. Dave announced to the group that he Parenting Time Guidelines have been reformatted and they now occupy less space than before. There are additional changes that need to be made ("relocation" language needs to be corrected, per Jeff), and the final revisions are with Tom Carusillo.
4. Dave requested that Camille prepare a brief memo for the group that discusses one of the comments relating to a recent change the ABA made to the model code that relates to pro se litigants in Canon 2.2, comment 4. The code directs that the judge should make "reasonable accommodations" for a pro se litigant to present the facts of their case. Judges should give the litigant a fair hearing without giving in to unreasonable demands.
5. Camille presented the most recent version of the "inquiry script" for callers who are seeking information and assistance. The group provided more resources that should be added to the script.
6. Dave distributed a hand out on the low asset will program that will be coming up. Volunteers are needed and this may be an event to refer people to.

The next SCARF meeting of March 26, 2008 is cancelled (Dave is in the Ukraine). The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 23, 2008. Please suggest potential meeting places, and forward your ideas to Camille by April 11, 2008.